

COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

MUTUAL NATION-WIDE HOOK-UP, INCLUDING STATION WFBR

November 14, 1942.

Chicago, Ill.

Meeting today in Chicago are Governors, Legislators, representatives from various agencies of State and local governments—all bent upon one single objective. These officials are from the West and from the East Coasts, from the Northern and Southern sections of our incomparable Union.

The single objective that is stamped upon every act and word of these State representatives, meeting under the auspices of the Council of State Governments, is to exert every effort to further our Nation's success in the War. While these elected and appointed officials are of different political faiths and economic beliefs, there is not the slightest tinge of partisanship or ulterior purpose in their deliberations. All such considerations are laid aside, for the good of our Country, while concerted effort is directed toward arranging a program which will hasten the day of Victory.

In consulting with the Governors and other representatives one is convinced beyond all doubt that America is completely united in its purpose to defend those basic principles which are its very life blood. The men of the 48 States have given indisputable evidence of that on Wake Island, at Bataan. More recently in North Africa, they have added to the renown of our Nation's fighting forces, and have attested to America's belief in the rights of all peoples to liberty and self-government.

Today it has been re-assuring to witness the adoption by the Council of State Governments of a program of unstinted, unreserved cooperation with the Federal Government in every phase of the war's activities where State support is essential. This is proof that America's 48 integral units of State Governments are functioning as one patriotically-fused whole.

Therefore, it is a matter of deepest gratification to me as President of the Council to be able to report to the public as to the laudable purpose and unshakable determination of the respective States to place every resource and all our manpower behind America's fighting forces in the battle for Victory.

The issues at stake today are older than the American Union itself. Coming as I do from Maryland, it is but natural that I should point to the fact that a century and a half before the great American Constitution was proclaimed to the world, Maryland's gallant founders had set the stage for it by establishing a sanctuary for the oppressed of all the world, a sanctuary where the individual might live his life unhampered, no matter what his private beliefs or racial origin.

Because these early Maryland principles, which are the basic tenets of Democracy, are being attacked today by ruthless dictators, they stand out in bold relief against the Axis theories. Because they are menaced today as never